

# Hints for dipping sheep

*All sheep on the farm should be dipped. When lambs dry off after birth, they can become infested by lice and they should therefore also be dipped*



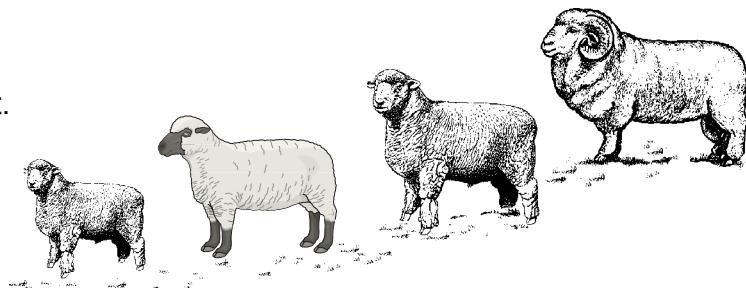
## Dipping-fluid

- Make sure that the dipping-fluid is suited for the purpose intended, such as getting rid of scab, lice or both.
- Read the label before mixing the dipping-fluid.
- Do not add anything to the dipping-fluid, unless it is recommended on the label.
- Make sure that the dipping-tank is clean before mixing the dipping-fluid.
- Strictly follow the instructions concerning the replenishment and storing of the dipping-fluid.

## Dipping do's

- Try to postpone dipping until after lambing, or dip the sheep before the start of the lambing season.
- Lice can only survive on sheep. Make sure that all sheep are dipped. Contamination by lice can only occur if there is contact between animals.

- Animals should be submerged in the dipping-fluid for at least 1 minute.
- The head should be submerged at least 3 times.
- Dip the sheep in one pen and make sure that they have all been wetted thoroughly, especially the neck folds and the skin at the back of the neck.
- Dip horned rams separately.
- Dip young and valuable sheep first.
- Dip sheep with lumpy wool last.  
Take good care to ensure that sheep with matted or lumpy wool have been wetted thoroughly.



## Dipping don't's

- Do not place ewes and lambs in the tank simultaneously.
- Sheep should not be driven over long distances before and after dipping.
- Never dip thirsty sheep.
- Start dipping early in the morning and do not continue until late in the afternoon. Sheep should get the opportunity to dry off sufficiently before the evening. Watch the weather and avoid dipping if there is a possibility of rain or cold weather.
- Do not put too many sheep in the drying pen. Diseases such as lumpy wool can be transmitted, and the sheep will take longer to dry off.
- Do not keep the sheep in the drying pen for long periods because contamination by faeces counter the effectiveness of the dipping-fluid.
- Do not dip recently shorn sheep. Allow a period of about 14 days for shearing wounds to heal.
- Do not dip sheep with long wool. If lice infestation is a problem in the case of long-woollen sheep, other measures have to be applied until shearing can take place at the normal time.

## Prevention

- Sheep scab and lice can only be transmitted from infested to uninfested animals if there is contact between animals.
- Preventive dipping of uninfested animals does not ensure long-lasting protection.
- According to the law concerning sheep scab, uninfected sheep of immediate neighbours should be treated.
- In the case of lice immediate neighbours having uninfested sheep are recommended to dip their animals or treat them using a registered pour-on remedy. Currently no injectable remedy is available against red lice on sheep. Dipping or using a pour-on remedy should eliminate the problem.

- ❑ All purchased stock should be regarded as a source of potential contamination and should be treated according to legal guidelines before coming into contact with other sheep on the farm.
- ❑ Other disease conditions which can cause problems are more complicated and include foot rot, coccidiosis, eye sores, pasteurellosis, tetanus, blue udder and trace element deficiencies. These cases should be examined by your local veterinarian.

***For further information contact your nearest extension officer  
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